

For Immediate Release:

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Michigan Small Business says “No Hurry” on State Health Care Exchange

Lansing (July 23, 2012) – The state’s leading advocate for small business owners has joined the call for state lawmakers to hold off on legislative proposals that would establish a state-run health care exchange before the November elections. Members of the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) voiced their opinion in a survey on the issue that was conducted last week.

The federal Affordable Care Act passed in 2010 requires each state to establish a health insurance “exchange”. If a state fails to act, the federal government will step in and create an exchange for that state. Legislation to move forward on the exchange has passed the state Senate but is on hold in the House.

“Small business owners do not want the Michigan legislature to act before November on setting up a state exchange,” said NFIB State Director Charlie Owens. “An examination of the two questions on the survey indicates that they are more divided on whether the state should set up an exchange at all.”

Owens was referring to two questions on the survey: “Do you support Michigan establishing its own state health care exchange?” 46 % NO, 39% YES, 15% Undecided; and “Do you support Michigan establishing its own exchange before the November 2012 elections?” 73% NO, 16% YES, 11% Undecided.

“The results suggest that small business owners are hopeful that the elections in November will offer another opportunity to change or repeal the Affordable Care Act and are against the state establishing an exchange before that time”, said Owens. “They feel that Michigan should follow the lead of other states and refuse to establish an exchange even if it means the federal government will do so anyway”.

The NFIB was the sole business organization plaintiff to argue against the constitutionality of the law before the U.S. Supreme Court in late June. When the court ruled in favor of the government, the NFIB announced that it would continue to seek repeal of the law in Congress.

A copy of the survey wording and response can be found at:

<http://www.nfib.com/michigan/nfib-in-my-state-content?cmsid=28297>

For more information about NFIB, please visit www.nfib.com/michigan.

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